

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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ALASKA REDUCES WALRUS KILL QUOTA

The State of Alaska has taken a precautionary move to reduce the number of walrus being killed by hunting, Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced today.

The State has proposed and had approved by the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as well as the Alaska Board of Game a plan for more restrictive regulations on the taking of walrus in the Bering, Beaufort, and Chukchi Sea areas.

Once the regulation changes were approved within the State of Alaska, the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 required the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to approve them.

Director Greenwalt said, "These changes are more restrictive than the regulations now in force originally approved by the Fish and Wildlife Service on April 5, 1976, and I have approved them after consulting with the Marine Mammal Commission. The changes have no effect on the extent of the waiver of the overall moratorium on the killing of Pacific walrus."

A complete set of the Alaska hunting regulations is available for inspection during normal business hours at 1612 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. The public is invited to examine them.

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